

What is claimed is:

1 1. A dental instrument, adapted to facilitate manipulation of a dental appliance along the
2 distal, mesial, or both distal and mesial surfaces of a tooth, the instrument comprising:

3 a grasping assembly, having a grasping surface shaped to approximate the contour of
4 the dental appliance, and having an apical seating member disposed along an upper edge of
5 the grasping surface; and

6 an actuating assembly, operatively coupled to the grasping assembly.

1 2. The instrument of claim 1, wherein the grasping assembly comprises a plurality of
2 members, each having a grasping surface, and wherein an apical seating member is disposed
3 along an upper edge of at least one grasping surface.

1 3. The instrument of claim 2, wherein the apical seating member is disposed along a
2 grasping surface closest to the tooth.

1 4. The instrument of claim 2, wherein the apical seating member is disposed along a
2 grasping surface farthest from the tooth.

1 5. The instrument of claim 1, wherein the grasping surface is angled to approximate the
2 contour of the dental appliance.

1 6. The instrument of claim 1, wherein the grasping surface is curved to approximate the
2 contour of the dental appliance.

1 7. The instrument of claim 6, wherein the grasping surface is curved convexly.

1 8. The instrument of claim 6, wherein the grasping surface is curved concavely.

1 9. The instrument of claim 1, wherein the grasping surface comprises a traction feature
2 disposed thereon.

1 10. The instrument of claim 1, wherein the grasping assembly is removably coupled to
2 the actuating assembly.

1 11. The instrument of claim 1, wherein the grasping assembly is permanently coupled to
2 the actuating assembly.

1 12. The instrument of claim 1, wherein the grasping assembly is formed as part of the
2 actuating assembly.

1 13. The instrument of claim 1, wherein a portion of the actuating assembly is angled to
2 facilitate exclusively mesial manipulation of the dental appliance.

1 14. The instrument of claim 1, wherein a portion of the actuating assembly is curved to
2 facilitate exclusively mesial manipulation of the dental appliance.

1 15. The instrument of claim 1, wherein a portion of the actuating assembly is angled to
2 facilitate exclusively distal manipulation of the dental appliance.

1 16. The instrument of claim 1, wherein a portion of the actuating assembly is curved to
2 facilitate exclusively distal manipulation of the dental appliance.

1 17. The instrument of claim 1, wherein a portion of the grasping assembly is angled to
2 facilitate exclusively mesial manipulation of the dental appliance.

1 18. The instrument of claim 1, wherein a portion of the grasping assembly is curved to
2 facilitate exclusively mesial manipulation of the dental appliance.

1 19. The instrument of claim 1, wherein a portion of the grasping assembly is angled to
2 facilitate exclusively distal manipulation of the dental appliance.

1 20. The instrument of claim 1, wherein a portion of the grasping assembly is curved to
2 facilitate exclusively distal manipulation of the dental appliance.

1 21. The instrument of claim 1, wherein the actuating assembly is a bifurcated actuating
2 assembly.

1 22. The instrument of claim 1, further comprising a locking assembly disposed along the
2 actuating assembly.

1 23. The instrument of claim 1, wherein a portion of the grasping assembly is formed to
2 selectively facilitate mesial or distal manipulation of the dental appliance.

1 24. An instrument for manipulation of a sectional matrix band along a mesial surface of a
2 tooth, the instrument comprising:

3 an actuating assembly, having first and second actuating members;

4 a first grasping member, coupled to the first actuating member at a first transition
5 area, having an inwardly convex grasping surface, formed proximal to the first transition
6 area, and an apical seating member formed along an edge of the inwardly convex grasping
7 surface;

8 a second grasping member, coupled to the second actuating member at a second

9 transition area, having an inwardly concave grasping surface formed proximal the second
10 transition area;

11 wherein the actuating assembly is operable to engage the inwardly convex and
12 concave grasping surfaces in a pressure fit relationship.

1 25. An instrument for manipulation of a sectional matrix band along a distal surface of a
2 tooth, the instrument comprising:

3 an actuating assembly, having first and second actuating members;

4 a first grasping member, coupled to the first actuating member at a first transition
5 area, having an inwardly concave grasping surface formed proximal to the first transition
6 area;

7 a second grasping member, coupled to the second actuating member at a second
8 transition area, having an apical seating feature formed proximal to the second transition area
9 and having an inwardly convex grasping surface formed proximal to the apical seating
10 feature;

11 wherein the actuating assembly is operable to engage the inwardly convex and
12 concave grasping surfaces in a pressure fit relationship.